

ASSOCIATED PRESS
11 March 1983

WASHINGTON

REAGAN REQUIRES LIE-DETECTOR TESTS FOR SUSPECTED LEAKERS
BY MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN

In a sweeping new order, President Reagan is requiring hundreds of thousands of federal employees to sign promises not to leak classified information and risk dismissal if they refuse to take lie detector tests in leak investigations.

He also added thousands more high-level federal officials to those already required to submit any writings, even after they leave office, to government review before publication for deletion of any secret material.

Some civil libertarians and liberals attacked the new rules, arguing they would limit the ability of former top officials to participate in public debate.

Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee on civil and constitutional rights, said the new rules had "a ring of authoritarianism."

And John Sturdivant, executive vice president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said the union would have its lawyers examine the order to "see whether it will stand constitutional muster."

Reagan signed a National Security Decision Directive containing the new rules on Friday, but one government source, who spoke on condition his name not be used, said the proposals had been awaiting White House action since last August. He said the signing was prompted by leaks last month of U.S. air and naval movements aimed at Libya.

Reagan's order set minimum standards and allows each agency chief to write stricter rules.

Before Reagan's order, only employees at the CIA, the National Security Agency, the Justice Department and some parts of the Defense Department could be disciplined for refusing to take polygraph tests during leak inquiries.

All other federal employees had the right to refuse without prejudice.

Reagan's order said all employees with access to classified data "may be required to submit to polygraph examinations" or face "appropriate adverse consequences."

An administration official, who briefed reporters at the Justice Department on condition he not be named, said those consequences could range from a note in the employee's file to dismissal.

The order also requires all federal employees with access to classified information to sign a non-disclosure agreement enforceable in court before

Steven Garfinkel, director of the Information Security Oversight Office, said hundreds of thousands of government employees in 60 agencies, including all Cabinet departments, have secrecy clearances that give them potential access to classified information. All would be covered by the new order.